

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 4.1% (4,906) reside in the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (932) of Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 78.1% of admissions from the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District were male and 21.9% were female.
- Over 67.6% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 80.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.8% were black non-Latino, 5.3% were Latino, 0.55% were Asians, and 2.6% were other racial categories.
- 65.9% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.5% were married, and 14.5% reported not to be married now.
- 24.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 55.2% completed high school, and 20.4% had more than high school education.
- 21.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 43.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

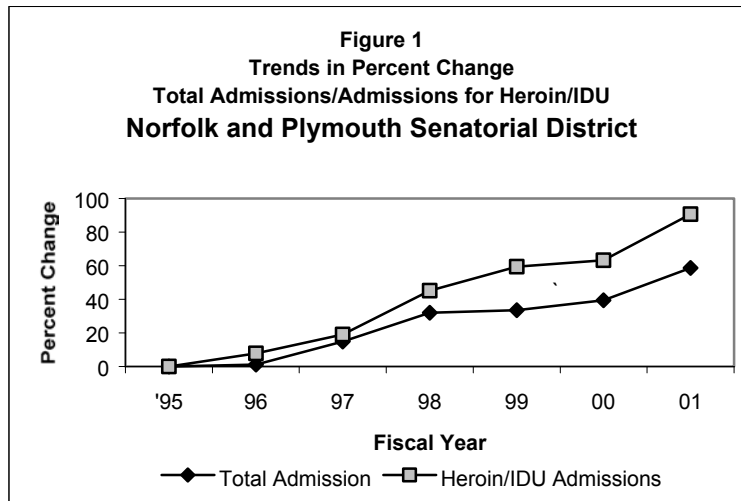
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	3,091	2,491	651	981	553	860	689
FY '96	3,126	2,521	809	1,006	649	940	729
FY '97	3,548	3,051	1,070	1,246	874	1,054	791
FY '98	4,083	3,389	1,201	1,240	877	1,306	941
FY '99	4,130	3,385	1,124	1,339	936	1,411	1,059
FY '00	4,309	3,493	1,132	1,247	825	1,453	1,076
FY '01	4,906	3,845	1,169	1,385	831	1,726	1,227

- Since FY 1995, residents of Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District reported a steady increase across all the drug categories. Admissions reporting alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, and heroin use have increased by 54%, 80%, 41%, 50%, and 101%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 59% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 91%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Norfolk and Plymouth Senatorial District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	56.6%	29.7%	3.5%	3.8%	2.4%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was level with the State, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin, marijuana, and crack were lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000